SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION
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Special Libraries Association
GEOGRAPHY AND MAP GROUP

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MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

When informed last July of my election as Chairman of the Geography and Map Group, I began to look forward eagerly to associations with members of this Group. The short period in office has been filled with pleasant personal contacts and friendly cooperation in dispatching the duties of the office. Everyone called upon has been willing and eager to help. Miss Ena L. Yonge, our able past Chairman, had started some interesting and worthwhile projects which it will be my good fortune to keep going.

It is my hope that every Geography and Map Group member will be an active participant in the Group's program. Each of you is earnestly requested to make suggestions which in your opinion will make the Group more useful to Special Librarians as well as to those of us who are interested in Geography and Map Libraries.

In order to have a more effective Group, it is necessary that as many as possible discuss the plans and projects now under way and those to be inaugurated in the future. With this idea in mind, I urge each of you to plan to be in Atlantic City, June 12-16, 1950, to participate in SLA convention activities. Miss Ruth M. Crawford, Librarian of the American Broadcasting Company, is planning an interesting convention program for the Geography and Map Group, which I am sure each one of us will find both profitable and enjoyable.

This Bulletin will become a more useful Group organ, if each of you will commission yourself as an editor to send in news items and ideas to be incorporated in the next issue. Let us all work together to make the Geography and Map Group a most interesting, active and worthwhile unit of the Special Libraries Association.

With the Season's Greetings,

Burton W. Adkinson
National Chairman

CONVENTION NOTES, JUNE 11-17, 1949

The Los Angeles Convention will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to attend. It was a privilege to make the acquaintance of some of our western colleagues. Their hospitality exceeded all possible expectations. The program outlined in the May 1949 Bulletin of the Geography and Map Group was carried out quite as scheduled. To Miss Doris Hoit, Librarian of the Pasadena Public Library and to Mr. Neal Harlow of the UCLA Library staff go our hearty thanks for their charming hospitality and the arrangement of a most effective program. We shared several events with the Museum Group, notably the trip to Santa Barbara, where we visited the Museum of Art, the Mission, the Botanical Garden, and the Museum of Natural History. Father Maynard Geiger, Archivist of the Santa Barbara Mission, arranged a special tour for the visiting librarians, at the end of which he showed us several of the Mission's priceless manuscript record books, as well as a letter of the venerated founder of most of the California missions, Father Junipero Serra. At the Huntington Library, on the following day, we were privileged to view priceless art treasures, rare volumes, and several cartographic treasures displayed by Mr. Herbert C. Schulz. The latter included several editions of Claudius Ptolemy's Geography, Lafrery's Atlas, some beautifully illuminated portolan charts, and a manuscript atlas of the buccaneer William Hack. Here we met Miss Hoit and her able staff. They piloted us for the rest of the day, first to luncheon at the Pasadena Women's City Club, next to their fine library, and then some 30 miles to the Carnegie Observatory atop Mt. Wilson. By special arrangement we were shown several of the great telescopes, the use of which Mr. Hickock explained as simply as possible.

The annual business meeting of the group was then held on the terrace of the hotel on Mt. Wilson. Seven members were present, namely, Ena L. Yonge, Chairman, Gerard L. Alexander, Doris Hoit, Katharine Karpenstein, Katherine M. Laupp, Clara and Russell LeGear. Items of unfinished business constituted the adoption of a group manual in lieu of a constitution. Miss Yonge produced a sample manual, the several parts of which were discussed. Those present agreed to postpone its adoption until it was more fully considered by a committee to be named by the next national chairman. A definition of the objectives of the group was also discussed and its adoption deferred.

Among items of new business, it was agreed that the Washington Group turn over to the National Group a project on map resources in American libraries. Thus far, a committee of the Washington chapter has prepared a questionnaire which is to be sent to all American institutions having map collections. The results are to be made available in an appropriate publication. The report of the nominating committee, submitted by Mark L. Pangborn, Chairman, was then presented. The national officers, elected for the next two years, are named on page 1. Before the group adjourned, Miss Yonge expressed her appreciation of the cooperative spirit of all members during her term of office.

In the glow of a colorful sunset, Miss Hoit and her staff served an excellent supper. Our guides drove us back to Los Angeles in time to visit the Los Angeles City Planning Department where Mr. Charles B. Bennett showed graphically some of the city's planning problems and proposed solutions.

On the following morning (Thursday, June 16, 1949), the Geography and Map Group visited the U. S. Public Land Survey Office in Glendale, which administers all the public land survey records of the State of California. Mr. Neal Harlow of the UCLA Library staff outlined the history of land distribution and land claims in California from the days of the Missions to the present, and showed samples of the various types of maps on file. Mr. Eads of the Public Land Survey Office then talked briefly on some legal aspects of mining claims, and Mr. Wilson reviewed problems encountered in the field by surveying crews. He exhibited several stakes that had marked township corners as early as 1879. At the luncheon which followed, Mr. W. W. Robinson, Vice-President of the California Title Insurance Company and author of several publications on California lands, was the guest speaker. In the afternoon we visited the Library of UCLA. Here our host, Mr. Harlow, piloted us first to the new wing of the Library and then the map room of the Geography Department, where Dr. Clifford Zierer and Dr. Clifford McFadden described the Department's facilities and showed us some of their special maps. Our visit to the University Library was all too hurried. In the evening we shared with the Transportation Group a most informative tour of the Fairchild Aerial Survey's plant. Mr. Haymaker explained the successive steps necessary to produce maps from aerial photographs.

The annual business meeting of SLA was held the next morning in the Los Angeles Public Library, and that evening, with the Museum Group, we attended a banquet at Ocean House in Santa Monica, a most fitting climax to a good convention. The Proceedings of the Fortieth Annual Convention are contained in the October 1949 issue of Special Libraries.

GROUP REPORTS

New York Group — Jacques S. Frazin, Chairman

Four meetings are scheduled for the season 1949-50, as follows:

October 13, 1949, a dinner meeting was held at Matty and Ray's Restaurant, with some forty-five persons present. Dr. Burton W. Adkinson, our new National Chairman, gave an illustrated talk on his trip to the International Geographical Union's 16th Congress at Lisbon in April 1949, and his visits to Paris and to England. His Kodachrome slides presented selected views of scenic spots in and around Lisbon, Paris, and the English countryside in the springtime. Some views of war damage in London and Coventry were also shown.

December 15, 1949, the Group will be guests of the New York Central System. The program will include a guided tour of the Grand Central Terminal.

February 7, 1950, Richard Edes Harrison will be host to the Group at his new office and residence at 313 East 51st Street, New York.

April 13, 1950, the meeting place and program to be announced.

Washington Group — Kathleen Irish, Chairman

Eight meetings are scheduled for the season 1949-50, based on the theme, THIS IS AMERICA. They are as follows:

September 13, 1949, dinner meeting at the National Airport. Mrs. Clara E. LeGear, former National Chairman of the Geography and Map Group, gave an illustrated talk on "The SLA Conference at Los Angeles and Scenes along the Way".

October 4, 1949, in the Whittall Pavilion, Library of Congress. Mr. Raine Bennett, radio commentator and columnist turned from the topic "Exploration and Discovery" to one on which he speaks with authority, "Islandry, a New Study". Throughout his talk, Mr. Bennett emphasized the strategic importance of islands in this atomic age.

November 1, 1949, in the Conference Room, National Archives. Mr. Herman Friis, Assistant Chief of the Cartographic Records Branch of the National Archives, spoke on "Settlement and Expansion" of the United States. He illustrated his remarks with maps from the Archives collections.

December 6, 1949, in the Museum of the Department of the Interior. Mr. H. L. Raul will talk on "Conservation of our National Resources", after which there will be a guided tour of the Museum.

GROUP PROJECTS

LIBRARY JOURNAL Special Issue on Maps

Publication has been held up, and present plans are to devote a regular issue of the LIBRARY JOURNAL in March 1950 to the subject of Maps. The original plan for a special supplement to the LIBRARY JOURNAL had to be changed for financial reasons. The change to a regular issue will require a slight curtailment of the table of contents and somewhat shorter articles. Miss Ena L. Yonge, assisted by Miss Nordis Felland, will edit the articles submitted by various experts in their fields.

Map Library Resources

A committee of the Washington Chapter met several times during the past two years and prepared a questionnaire to be submitted to all the American institutions having map collections. This project has been turned over to the National Group, a new committee of which will review the questionnaire before it is circularized. When the project was inaugurated, the questionnaire was to be sent out by the Library of Congress and the Army Map Service with the proviso that the information thus ascertained would be available to both institutions, and that the SLA would undertake to publish it.

Map Group Manual

A committee to study the sample SLA Group Manual and to prepare one adapted to the needs of the National Geography and Map Group has been appointed by Dr. Adkinson. Miss Mary Murphy of the Army Map Service Library has been named its Chairman.

Committee to Study Section 7 of the Library of Congress Rules for Descriptive Cataloging

Miss Muriel H. Parry, the Chairman of this Committee reports that her Committee has been actively at work and that a final report will be submitted for inclusion in the next Group Bulletin. The Committee sent out 200 additional questionnaires, the returns from which are gratifying.

Washington Group -- Continued

January 3, 1950, at the Library of Congress. Mr. L. L. Hunter, design architect, will talk on "Shelter and the American Way of Life."

February 7, 1950, at George Washington University, Miss Irene Pistorio will talk on the "Geography of Manners, Customs and Dress," and will exhibit costume dolls.

March 7, 1950, joint meeting with the Transportation Group, in the Transportation Building. Miss Elizabeth Cullen will explore the "Geography of Transportation."

April 4, 1950, meeting place and program to be announced.

AIDS AND NEW PUBLICATIONS IN OUR FIELD

The Library of Congress has agreed to contribute a list of the American map publications to the BIBLIOGRAPHIE CARTOGRAPHIQUE INTERNATIONALE, beginning with the 1949 issue. The bibliography began publication several years ago under the direction of Mlle. M. Foncin, Curator of Maps in the Bibliotheque Nationale. The 1949 issue of the Bibliographie Cartographique Internationale will appear sometime in 1950.

Distinctive Recent Maps is now a regular contribution of Dr. W. W. Ristow to SURVEYING AND MAPPING. Inaugurated in October, 1948, this section has received much favorable comment. Each issue of this excellent periodical includes numerous items of interest to map librarians.

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The 40th anniversary of the Special Libraries Association was celebrated in November 1949. Our President, Ruth Hooker, has proposed that our membership make a collective effort to build up a professional library at SLA Headquarters in commemoration of the occasion. The authors among us might send autographed copies of their publications, although any professional literature, especially in the field of Library Science would be most acceptable for the Headquarters Library.

GROUP NEWS

Mr. S. W. Boggs, Special Adviser on Geography, U. S. Department of State, was a delegate to the First Consultation on Geography of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, Rio de Janeiro, October 12-24, 1949.

Miss Nordis Felland, Librarian of the American Geographical Society, has been elected Secretary of the New York Group, Society of Women Geographers.

Mr. Jacques S. Frazin, Eastern Division Manager of Rand McNally and Company got a nice write-up and his picture in the new Rand McNally house organ, RANALLY WORLD, Vol. 1, No. 2, October 1949, P. 11.

Mr. Paul B. Lee, formerly Director of the Editorial-Research Department of the General Drafting Company, has been made assistant to the President of the Company.

Dr. Walter W. Ristow, Acting Chief of the Division of Maps, Library of Congress, and former Chairman of the New York Geography and Map Group, attended the First Consultation on Geography, of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, at Rio de Janeiro, October 12-24, 1949. He also stopped in Puerto Rico for a few days, to study the land utilization survey being carried on there under the direction of Dr. Raoul Pico.

Miss Ena L. Yonge, Map Curator of the American Geographical Society, is Treasurer of the newly-organized New York Metropolitan Area Division of the Association of American Geographers.

Dr. W. W. Atwood, Jr. has been appointed Chairman of the United States Committee of the International Geographical Union. The Committee is making plans for the 17th International Geographical Congress which is to be held in Washington, D. C., from August 5 to 13, 1952. It will be the second meeting of the Geographical Congress in the United States, the first having taken place in 1912.

We are indebted to Mr. Bill M. Woods, Map Librarian of the University of Illinois, for the following letter addressed to Dr. Adkinson, under date of October 18, 1949. It is quoted in full:

Dear Dr. Adkinson:

Map activities being carried on here at the University of Illinois Library this fall should be of interest to readers of the Geography and Map Group Bulletin.

Remodeling done during August made three small rooms into a map laboratory equipped with drafting tables and individual cartographic equipment. This room is adjacent to the three rooms now housing the Map Room.

The laboratory will be used by the Geography Department in several new classes which involve heavy use of maps. The new courses are Cartographic Methods, Map Reading and Interpretation, and Survey of World Maps and Mapping. Other courses in Cartography will be added as the new curriculum in Cartography expands under the direction of Dr. J. A. Russell, Head of the Department of Geography. A new faculty member in the Department of Geography who will offer most of the cartography is Dr. Fred W. Foster, formerly at Michigan State. Dr. A. W. Booth of the Geography Department is offering the classes in interpretation.

A new course in the Library School to be offered the second semester for the first time is "Maps and Cartobibliographical Aids." It is intended for both Library School and Geography students who intend to enter map work of any kind. Mr. James Ranz, formerly map librarian but now doing atlas and other cataloging in the Catalog Department of the Library, will teach the course this year.

Two graduate geography students are working half-time each in the Map Room doing semi-professional map work. A part-time student typist completes the staff. Two Library School students interested in map librarianship are doing their required field work under the supervision of the Map Librarian.

Not only are the Geography Department and the Library School putting new demands on the Map Room, but the State Scientific Surveys (Geology, Natural History, Water, and Soil), the Departments of Agricultural Economics, Geology, History, and Landscape Architecture are all emphasizing use of maps.

For purpose of comparison, the Map Room now includes some 112,000 maps, 18,000 serial photographs, 1800 atlases, gazetteers, etc., and several thousand posters.

I wish there were some way I could participate more actively in the activities of the Geography and Map Group but hope this contribution of news is of use.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Bill M. Woods
Map Librarian

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